

# COUNCIL BRIEFS

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July 1, 2016

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**Safest Cities to Raise Children:** Safewise, a website that ranks home security systems, has ranked the [30 safest places to raise a child](#) in the United States and five Connecticut towns made the list: Greenwich, Fairfield, West Hartford, Milford and Wallingford. Safewise analyzed violent crime data from the most recent FBI Crime Report, along with sex offender populations, state graduation rates, and school rankings. The agency also looked for unique programs that were kid-friendly.

West Hartford was noted for its tree-lined streets, historic homes and quaint, safe neighborhoods. The town's low crime rate per capita and its community policing program stood out. The police department's Behind the Badge: Citizen's Police Academy program was recognized for building stronger relationships with the police and the community.

**Top Ranking on Solar Scorecard:** The Yale Data-Driven Environmental Solutions Group has developed scorecards that evaluate how each Connecticut municipality supports residential solar photovoltaic deployment. West Hartford was ranked 15 out of 169 towns in the state with a total score of 76 out of 100. The scorecards provide a benchmark of where municipalities have excelled at supporting residential solar PV and where they can improve. Scores are given in five categories: solar adoption, clean energy engagement, information availability, permit process and permit time and cost. [Click here to view the complete scorecard.](#)

**West Hartford Senior Center helps Mercy Housing and Shelter:** The West Hartford Senior Center in Bishops Corner recently donated a shopping cart full of handmade scarves and toiletries to Mercy Housing and Shelter in Hartford. For nearly 33 years, Mercy Housing and Shelter has been working to move individuals and families out of homelessness and into a home of their own.

Dave Martineau, Executive Director, thanked the Senior Center on behalf of the men, women and children who will walk through their doors this year without a home and basic human needs. "We are glad to be able to help our less fortunate neighbors" said Gina Marino, Senior Center Director.

**Judy Bierly retires after 23 years of service:** Judy Bierly, Director of Community Services, at The Bridge Family Center, officially retired on June 30. Margaret Hann, Executive Director, said, "It would be impossible to count the number of lives she has touched, and we remain incredibly grateful for her 23 years of service."

Judy's most notable community projects and fundraising events that were developed under her direction, include Tune into Life, the Children's Charity Ball, and the annual Community Breakfast. The Bridge Family Center serves as the Town's Youth Services Bureau and offers prevention and intervention services for children, youth, and families.

The Bridge welcomes Amanda Aronson as the new Director of Marketing & Communications.

**Second round of paving begins:** The Town plans to repave the following roadways beginning in July:

- Ballard Drive
- Canal Road (Westmont to Hunter Drive)
- Jessamine Street
- King Road
- North Main Street (Southerly Loomis Drive intersection to Farmington Avenue)
- Ridgewood Road (West Point Terrace to Interstate 84 Interchange)
- Short Road
- South Main Street (Farmington Avenue to Ellsworth Road/Town Hall Driveway)
- Thomson Road
- Vera Street
- Westminster Drive

Ronald F. Van Winkle, Town Manager